Camp Lick Project

Other Undeveloped Lands Report

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Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

Introduction

This report discloses the affected environment and environmental consequences for other undeveloped lands in the Camp Lick planning area.

Background

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) covers approximately 27.2 million acres within the states of Oregon and Washington. This represents approximately 27 percent of the total acreage of both states combined. These 27.2 million acres are allocated and managed based on the land allocations designated within the respective National Forest System lands and Resource Management Plans. However, two types of land designations are overriding and common among all units within the region (indeed the nation): the management of wilderness areas and inventoried roadless areas. In Region 6, there are approximately 4 million acres of inventoried roadless areas (15 percent) and approximately 5 million acres of wilderness (18 percent).

The Malheur National Forest is one of 16 administrative units that manage National Forest System lands within the Pacific Northwest Region. The Malheur National Forest covers approximately 1.7 million acres in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon. The Malheur National Forest contains approximately 83,000 acres of wilderness (5 percent) and approximately 189,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (11 percent). The Forest consists of three Ranger Districts one of which is the Blue Mountain Ranger District.

The Blue Mountain Ranger District is approximately 707,000 acres in size and contains approximately 37,000 acres of wilderness (5 percent) and 95,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas (13 percent). The Camp Lick planning area is located in the northern portion of the Blue Mountain Ranger District. The Camp Lick planning area includes no wilderness areas, no inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), and approximately 8,150 acres of other undeveloped lands (20 percent of the planning area).

Table 1. Wilderness and inventoried roadless areas in the Pacific Northwest Region, Malheur National Forest, Blue Mountain Ranger District, and Camp Lick planning area

Unit	Acres	Percentage
Pacific Northwest Region	27.2 million	27%[1]
Wilderness	5 million	18%
Inventoried Roadless Areas	4 million	15%
Malheur National Forest	1.7 million	6%[2]
Wilderness	83,000	5%
Inventoried Roadless Areas	189,000	11%
Blue Mountain Ranger District	707,000	42%[3]
Wilderness	37,000	5%
Inventoried Roadless Areas	95,000	13%
Camp Lick project planning area	40,000	5.6%[4]
Wilderness	0	0%
Inventoried Roadless Areas	0	0%
Other undeveloped lands	8,150	20%[5]

1 Portion (acres) of both Oregon and Washington that are National Forest System lands.

2 Portion (acres) of USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region that is managed by the Malheur National Forest.
3 Portion (acres) of the Malheur National Forest that is managed by the Blue Mountain Ranger District.
4 Portion (acres) of the Blue Mountain Ranger District within the boundary of the Camp Lick planning area.
5 This number reflects the inventory of other undeveloped lands within the planning area.

Regulatory Framework

During public involvement for this project, and in past similar projects, a wide range of terms have been used by respondents, the courts, and the Forest Service when referring to these topics such as roadless, inventoried roadless area, unroaded, un-inventoried roadless, areas with wilderness characteristics, undeveloped lands, and roadless expanse. The terms and definitions as stated below will be used in this site-specific analysis. The four resource topics are based on current law, regulation, agency policy, and the Malheur Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), as amended (USDA Forest Service 1990a).

From the mid-1970s through 2001, the Forest Service maintained a roadless area inventory of undeveloped lands that we used and updated for Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE), RARE II, and in support of Land and Resource Management Planning completed in 1990 for the Malheur National Forest. During that period we called these polygons “roadless areas” or “inventoried roadless areas” (IRAs). With completion of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) in 2001 these lands ceased being just an inventory, and IRA became a designation, with fixed boundaries and prohibitions set by Forest Service regulation (36 CFR 294). Confusion ensued because two Forest Service maps used the same name; IRA. One map had fixed boundaries set by the RACR and another map had changeable boundaries based on inventory criteria.

To address this situation, a 2006 amendment to the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 chapter 70, section 71 created a new term for the inventory of undeveloped lands called “potential wilderness areas” to make a clear distinction between the IRA term used by the 2001 RACR. A 2015 amendment to the FSH 1909.12 chapter 70, section 71 abandoned the potential wilderness area term. The 2015 amendment to section 71 created new criteria to guide the identification of lands that may have wilderness characteristics. However, the inventory process for areas with wilderness characteristics is identified as a forest planning level analysis and is not intended to be conducted on a project-level basis.

The term “other undeveloped lands” is presented and used in this document to provide a consideration for the balance of those remaining lands that are not designated wilderness, were not designated as IRA under the RACR, have not been identified at the forest planning level as areas with wilderness characteristics, and do not contain roads and evidence of timber harvest or roads (see definitions below).

In the early 2000s, some local interest groups began creating their own inventories, including lands on the Malheur National Forest, using inventory criteria they developed for their purposes. Polygons on their maps are referred to as “inventoried roadless areas,” “roadless areas,” “unroaded,” or “un-inventoried roadless areas.” Confusion ensued again on this issue because there are conflicts between the Forest Service maps and maps presented by these interest groups. Each map appears to be based on different definitions and inventory criteria.

The terms and definitions as stated below will be used in this site-specific analysis. The four resource topics are based on current law, regulation, agency policy, and the Malheur Forest Plan, as amended.

Wilderness

Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation as defined under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions which (1) generally appear to have been affected primarily by forces of nature with the imprint of human actively substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and confined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is of sufficient size to make practical its preservation, enjoyment, and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may contain features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value as well as ecologic and geologic interest (USDA Forest Service 1990a, page VIII-38).

Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA)

These areas were identified in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule in a set of inventoried roadless area maps contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000 (or any subsequent update or revision of those maps) which are held at the National headquarters office of the Forest Service (36 CFR 294.11). These areas were set aside through administrative rulemaking and have provisions, within the context of multiple use management, for the protection of inventoried roadless areas. Most inventoried roadless area boundaries are substantially identical to those identified as "Roadless Areas," referred to in the 1982 planning rule (36 CFR 219.17) and identified by the Malheur Forest Plan, FEIS, Appendix C; however some localized, minor differences in boundaries may exist.

All roadless area acres were allocated to various management area strategies as disclosed in the Forest Plan FEIS, Appendix C and described in the Record of Decision (page 14-17) for the FEIS. Some management area strategies were intended to retain the undeveloped roadless character of the roadless area and some management area strategies were intended to develop the lands with timber harvest and road building activities, thus forgoing roadless character.

Areas with Wilderness Characteristics

Areas identified using inventory procedures found in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, chapter 70, section 71 are called areas with wilderness characteristics. The inventory is conducted by the Forest Service during forest plan revision with the purpose of identifying all lands that may have wilderness characteristics. Such areas inventoried during forest plan revision could be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The agency would then conduct an evaluation and analysis and consider recommendations for potential wilderness (FSH 1909.12, chapter 70, sections 72, 73, and 74). Areas with wilderness characteristics are not a land designation decision, they do not imply or impart any particular level of management direction or protection, they are not an evaluation of potential wilderness (chapter 72), and lastly they are not preliminary administrative recommendations for wilderness designation (chapter 73).

Other Undeveloped Lands

These acres of land have no history of harvest activity, do not contain forest roads, and are not designated as a wilderness area, identified as an inventoried roadless area, or included in the areas with wilderness characteristics inventory. They are stand-alone polygons of varying acreages all less than 5,000 acres within the planning area.

There are no forest-wide or management area standards specific to other undeveloped lands in the Malheur Forest Plan; however, there are management areas that emphasize a non-motorized condition or prohibit harvest of timber. All lands, including other undeveloped lands, are managed consistent with forest-wide standards and guidelines and by designated Malheur Forest Plan management area allocations.

Affected Environment

Existing Condition

Wilderness

There are no designated wilderness areas within, or directly adjacent to the planning area. The closest designated wilderness is the North Fork John Day Wilderness located approximately 9.5 miles to the northeast of the planning area.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

There are no inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) within, or directly adjacent to the planning area. The closest designated IRA is the Nipple Butte IRA located within approximately 0.1 miles west of the planning area. At is closest point to the Camp Lick Project boundary, there is a road between the Nipple Butte IRA and the planning area.

Areas with Wilderness Characteristics

No areas with wilderness characteristics have been identified within or adjacent to the planning area during a forest planning level analysis. Therefore, areas with wilderness characteristics will not be discussed further in this document.

Other Undeveloped Lands

These acres of land have no history of harvest activity, do not contain forest roads, and are not designated as a wilderness area or identified as an inventoried roadless area. They are areas that have no obvious previous activity and are "leftover" areas from other analyses. For example, but not limited to, these areas may have been too steep, in between roads and harvest areas, or too wet. These areas may have values associated with them such as scenery and cultural resource values because of the lack of evidence of harvest or roads. These acres have no previous roads or harvest activities located in them.

Table 2 displays the acres of other undeveloped lands within the Camp Lick planning area. In the 40,000 acre Camp Lick planning area, approximately 8,150 acres have been identified as isolated polygons of other undeveloped lands, and the remaining 31,850 acres are developed and managed (contain evidence of past harvest, mining, and/or forest roads). There are no privately owned lands or public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the planning area. Individual polygons of other undeveloped lands less than 1 acre were eliminated from further study because no special or unique resource values were identified and the description of effects to individual pieces of land less than 1 acre are better disclosed as part of the other resource effects sections in the Camp Lick FEA.

Table 2. Camp Lick planning area inventory for other undeveloped lands

Land area	Acres
Acres inventoried for other undeveloped lands within the planning area	8,150 acres
Lands within the planning area with evidence of past harvest, mining, developed recreation sites, and/or forest roads (including land within 300 feet of a forest road[1]).	31,850 acres
Lands within an Inventoried Roadless Area	0 acres
Other undeveloped lands (remaining acres with no evidence of past harvest and forest roads1 and/or not contained within an inventoried roadless area).	8,150 acres
Bureau of Land Management managed public lands within the planning area boundary	0 acres
Private lands within the planning area boundary	0 acres

1This includes roads of any maintenance level (i.e., maintenance level 1 or higher).

Table 3 displays the number, size class, and approximate acres of undeveloped lands present within the planning area. Approximately 90 percent of the polygons are in the 1- to 100-acre size class. For perspective, one square mile is about 640 acres and the closest designated wilderness area (North Fork John Day) is over 121,300 acres. The residual shape of each undeveloped polygon is the result of boundaries created by past harvest, mining, developed recreation sites, and road building. The largest polygon of other undeveloped lands is approximately 530 acres.

Table 3. Size class and acres of other undeveloped lands in the Camp Lick planning area

Size class	Number of polygons	Approximate acres
>1 acre	91*	21 acres
1 to 20.0 acres	138 (58%)	970 acres
20.1 to 100 acres	74 (31%)	3,300 acres
100.1 to 200 acres	17 (7%)	2,400 acres
200.1 to 400 acres	2 (1%)	490 acres
400.1 to 1,000 acres	2 (1%)	970 acres
>1,000.1 acres	0	0 acres

*number of polygons less than one acre in size were not included in the calculation of total percentage of OUL polygons, as these polygons were eliminated from detailed study, as described above

The majority of the 8,150 acres of other undeveloped lands are allocated to Malheur Forest Plan management areas (MAs) General Forest and Range (MA 1 and 2) and Big Game Winter Range (MA 4A). Both of these management areas allow timber management on a scheduled basis; all types of prescribed fire may be used to accomplish management objectives; and road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted within Malheur Forest Plan standards and guidelines. See chapter 1 of the Camp Lick EA for a brief descriptions of goals, standards, and guidelines associated with each Malheur Forest Plan management area allocation located within Camp Lick planning area.

Other undeveloped lands include soils, water, fish and wildlife habitat that have not been directly impacted by past harvest, mining, and road building, or the impacts are not readily evident. Indirect impacts have and continue to occur due to fragmentation of vegetation. The current condition of soil; water; air quality; plant and animal communities; habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; noxious weeds; recreation; and cultural resources within the planning area, including other undeveloped lands, are described elsewhere in chapter 3 of the Camp Lick FEA.

Human influences have had limited impact to long-term ecological processes within the other undeveloped lands. Disturbances by insects and fire have been and most likely would continue to be the factors with the most potential to impact the area. Opportunities for primitive recreation are limited to hiking, mostly cross-country, and hunting. Ongoing firewood gathering and removal of danger trees along forest roads that border each polygon changes the vegetation, leaves stumps, and presents a managed appearance within a developed transportation corridor.

Opportunities for a feeling of solitude, the spirit of adventure and awareness, serenity, and self-reliance are limited by the size and shape of the polygon. Distance and topographic screening are also factors. The optimum shape and location to retain solitude and a sense of isolation from noise and sights of other humans and their activities would be at the center of a circle. Areas greater than or equal to 5,000 acres or about 8 square miles may have sufficient size to offer a sense of solitude, yet this may vary by individual. Long narrow shapes provide less distance from noise at their midpoint. Nearby, non-conforming sights and sounds of roads and timber harvest can be heard and often seen from within the 236 polygons of other undeveloped lands because they are all less than one square mile in size and none are a perfect circle in shape.

The existing condition of the remaining 31,850 acres of land in the planning area that are not found within other undeveloped lands and affected by the project presents a landscape that has been managed and is generally developed in nature; these lands contain evidence of past harvest, active mining, and forest roads. Past management actions and current conditions within the 31,850 acres reflect the multiple-use intent and decisions made in the Malheur Forest Plan, and reflect consistency with management area allocations.

Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition is to manage all lands as directed in the Malheur Forest Plan and to restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period.

Desired future conditions include:

- Maintain and improve landscape resiliency and resistance to disturbances such as wildfire, drought, and insects and diseases by managing for desirable forest composition, stocking levels, and pattern
- Promote the resistance and resiliency of forest stand structure, composition, and density given historical fire regime to reduce the potential impacts from wildfire
- Maintain or improve biodiversity and habitat for fish and wildlife species present in the planning area, taking into account changes in climatic conditions

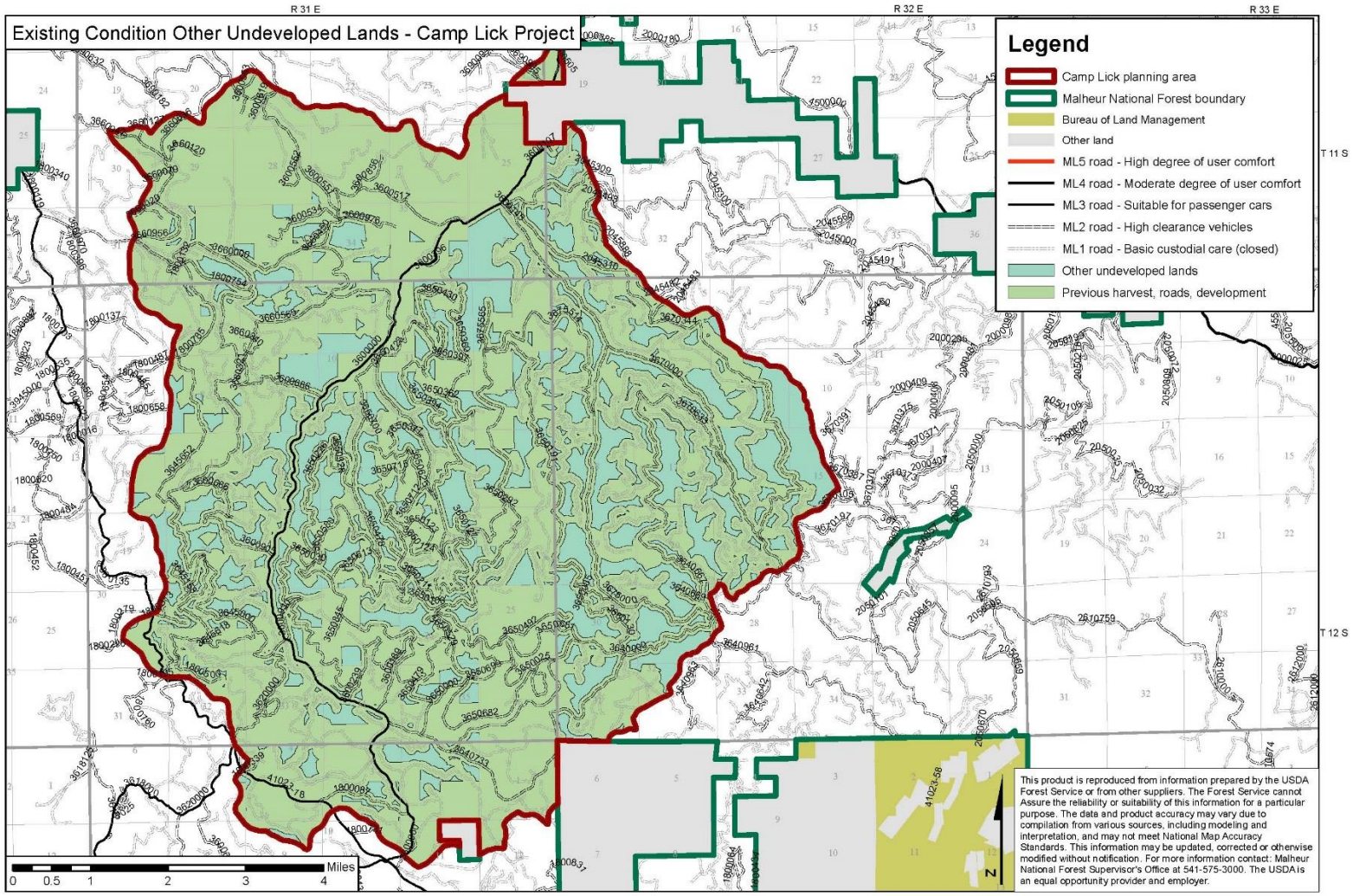

Figure 1. Existing condition for other undeveloped lands in the planning area

Environmental Consequences

Issues and Purpose and Need Addressed and Indicators for Assessing Effects

The analysis issues for assessing effects of each alternative and for comparing alternatives include values and features that characterize other undeveloped lands; and intrinsic biological, physical, and social values are shown in Table 4. The majority of the indicators are essentially the same as disclosed for areas of proposed project activities in chapter 3 of the Camp Lick FEA and are not reiterated in this report.

Methodology

The effects to other undeveloped lands were based on maps and polygons created using agency inventory procedures. These maps and polygons were created utilizing geographic information systems (GIS). The planning area was evaluated for evidence of roads (open or closed, including a 300-feet buffer on each side of the road), prior timber harvest, prior fire activity, mining, or development such as campgrounds.

Information regarding the effects of prior harvest, including previously harvested lands acquired by the Forest Service, were discussed and reviewed with the project silviculturist. Based on field review and professional judgement, these lands still show evidence of past harvest, including stumps and vegetation conditions outside those expected and reflective of historical, pre-harvest conditions. Therefore, former private lands acquired by the Forest Service from lumber companies were excluded from analysis as other undeveloped lands.

Individual polygons of other undeveloped lands less than 1 acre were eliminated from further study because no special or unique resource values were identified and the description of effects to individual pieces of land less than 1 acre are better disclosed as part of the other resource effects sections in the Camp Lick FEA.

Table 4. Resource indicators and measures for assessing effects

Objective	Indicator
Maintaining values and features that characterize other undeveloped lands	• Change in acres of other undeveloped lands • Intrinsic physical and biological resources (soil, water, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, etc.) • Intrinsic social values (apparent naturalness, solitude, remoteness)

Spatial and Temporal Context for Effects Analysis

The scale of analysis is the Camp Lick planning area.

The spatial contexts for this analysis are unit boundaries and the areas with the associated road activities. The temporal context for the effect analysis is long-term, 5 to 50 years. Road decommissioning, new road construction, and silviculture treatments would have long-term effects and may result in more or less other undeveloped lands.

Past, Present, and Foreseeable Actions Relevant to Cumulative Effects Analysis

Past actions in or near the planning area include timber management, wildland fuels management, fire suppression, mining, dispersed camping, firewood cutting, and road and facilities construction and maintenance. All activities have affected current forest composition, structure, and overall management infrastructure and developed lands of the area. Therefore, these activities are still reflected (with individual variances) in the current condition of the area's natural resource and human environment values.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 1 (no action alternative) identifies and describes the current conditions of the physical, biological, social, and economic environments associated with the candidate stands and various analysis areas. As suggested by the NEPA, a no action alternative is included and analyzed as a benchmark against which the proposed action alternative can be compared. Under this scenario, alternative 1 would not authorize any vegetation management and other connected or associated actions to obtain the purpose and need for the Camp Lick Project. Alternative 1 would not implement the Malheur Forest Plan, as amended.

The no action alternative should not be confused with a baseline. Whereas a baseline is essentially a description of the affected environment at a fixed point in time, the no action alternative for this analysis assumes that other things would happen to the affected environment, particularly in a dynamic, changing forest ecosystem over time. How this ecosystem could change over time without the proposed management actions is discussed below and more fully in other sections of the Camp Lick FEA that describe potential consequences for no action.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Wilderness

The no action alternative would have no direct or indirect effects on wilderness character, including solitude, because no activities would occur adjacent to or within any designated wilderness.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

The no action alternative would have no direct or indirect effects on IRAs, because no activities would occur within or adjacent to any designated IRAs.

Other Undeveloped Lands

Under alternative 1, there would be no direct or indirect effects to undeveloped lands because no activities would occur in these areas. The existing condition would remain unchanged, except by natural processes and ongoing management activities. Biological and ecosystem functions would continue. The landscape would likely continue developing complex fuel loads. A wildfire may burn more extensively and kill more trees within upland forest stands which would result in larger acreages of blackened landscapes compared to prescribed fires. All polygons of other undeveloped lands would continue to not be an inventoried roadless area, an area with wilderness characteristics, or a designated wilderness area.

Cumulative Effects

Because there would be no direct or indirect effects under alternative 1 due to taking no action, there would be no cumulative effects to wilderness, IRAs, and other undeveloped lands.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action

Direct and Indirect Effects

Wilderness

Alternative 2 would have no direct or indirect effects on wilderness character, including solitude, because of the distance to the nearest treatment unit (approximately 9.5 miles). No activities would occur adjacent or within any designated wilderness.

All burning activities must comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards and would be conducted under the rules and regulations of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Rules and regulations limit the amount and timing of all burning activities. Such activities would be conducted only when prevailing and predicted wind patterns would not result in measurable impacts to either the North Fork John Day Wilderness or Strawberry Mountain Wilderness class I airsheds, or the John Day, Burns, and Baker City smoke sensitive receptor areas.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Alternative 2 would have no direct or indirect effects on IRA character because no activities would occur within any designated IRAs. At is closest point to the planning area boundary, there is a road between the Nipple Butte IRA and the planning area.

Other Undeveloped Lands

Changes in acres in other undeveloped areas

Under alternative 2 all acres of other undeveloped lands would continue to not be an inventoried roadless area or a designated wilderness area. Table 5 displays acres of proposed activities and miles of road activities that would occur under alternative 2[1]. Table 6 displays a summary showing the changes in acres for other undeveloped lands under each action alternative. Acres changed from undeveloped to developed acres include silviculture treatments (stand improvement commercial thinning, stand improvement biomass thinning, lodgepole treatments, juniper encroachment treatments, and western white pine restoration), prescribed burning, ecological riparian treatments, meadow restoration, and temporary road construction with a 200-foot buffer for any portion of these roads or buffers that lie outside of the silviculture treatment units.

Table 5. Acres of activities and miles of road proposed under alternative 2 that occur within other undeveloped lands in the Camp Lick planning area

Activities within other undeveloped lands	Distance (miles)	Size (acres)*
Silviculture treatments	n/a	1,790
Ecological riparian treatments		190

[1]Acres of undeveloped lands were not reanalyzed after modifications were made to alternative 2 between the PEA and the FEA because the small scale of changes would not affect the approximate impacts of the proposed activities on other undeveloped lands.

Activities within other undeveloped lands	Distance (miles)	Size (acres)*
Meadow restoration	n/a	8
Prescribed burning	n/a	5,880
New road construction	0	n/a
Road decommissioning**	4	190
Temporary roads (outside treatment units)	1.0	60

* Acres of some activities overlap.

** The road proposed for decommissioning are within developed areas. Decommissioning these roads would add acres to undeveloped lands.

Table 6. Changes in other undeveloped lands in the Camp Lick planning area under alternative 2.

Alternative	Other undeveloped acres after implementation	Acres changed (includes silviculture treatments, riparian and upland restoration treatments, and road activities)	Percentage of planning area remaining as other undeveloped lands after implementation	Developed acres after implementation
2	6,130	-2020	15	33,870
2 including prescribed burning acres	1,930	-6,220	5	38070

Intrinsic physical and biological resources (soil, water, wildlife, recreation, fisheries, etc.)

For other undeveloped lands within the Camp Lick planning area where activities proposed under alternative 2 would occur, the impacts to soil, water quality, air quality, forage; plant and animal communities; habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; recreation; noxious weeds; and cultural resources are essentially the same as disclosed for areas of proposed project activity in described in other resource sections in chapter 3 of the Camp Lick FEA and other resource reports and are not reiterated here.

Intrinsic social values (apparent naturalness, solitude, remoteness)

Human influences have had limited impact to long-term ecological processes within these other undeveloped lands. Disturbance by insects and fire has been and most likely would continue to be the factors with the most potential to impact these areas. Silviculture treatments would increase the number of stumps and the open nature of the forest stand would likely be the most apparent visual change resulting from implementation. The lands would appear managed and developed. The sights, sounds, and changes in vegetation from harvest activities would further decrease the natural integrity and sense of naturalness within harvest units and along roads. All harvested units would remain forested after harvest although skid trails, stumps, and landings would be evident. Stand structure would change, therefore diversity of plant and animal communities may shift from current patterns but ecological diversity would remain (Camp Lick Silviculture Report). Impacts to natural integrity and sense of naturalness would likely be evident until stumps and vegetation canopies are no longer substantially recognizable (about 75 to 100 years). The sounds of timber harvest and road building machinery from active units would reduce a sense of naturalness and solitude during project operations but would not persist in the long-term. Other impacts, such as tree marking paint and logging slash would be visible in the short-term (about 5 to 10 years). Impacts such as closed roads, skid trails, and tree stumps would be evident much longer.

Prescribed burning would change composition and structure of vegetation (Camp Lick Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Report) and the lands would appear managed and developed. For a few years burned areas would display a blackened color.

The sounds, smells, and possible sighting of mechanical activities and fuel treatment activities occurring in areas adjacent to the other undeveloped areas would reduce the sense of solitude and remoteness in the short-term, during project activities. Other sights and sounds of ongoing and previously approved activities in areas adjacent to the boundary of the other undeveloped areas would continue to have short-term effects on opportunities for solitude and remoteness. In the long-term, there would be no change to the current availability of solitude or primitive recreation (see Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Report).

Proposed riparian restoration activities (e.g., riparian vegetation enhancement thinning and large woody debris placements) in other undeveloped lands would appear slightly altered in the short-term until the disturbance softens and becomes more natural-appearing as time weathers the actions. The sights and sounds of machinery from the activity would reduce a sense of naturalness and solitude during project operations but would not persist in the long-term. Impacts such as tree stumps and large woody debris would be evident much longer. In the long-term, these areas would blend in with the surrounding landscape with more of the native vegetation and structure that were present historically.

Proposed temporary road activities in other undeveloped lands would reduce the size of the other undeveloped lands polygons, although proposed road decommissioning activities would return lands to undeveloped status in the long term. The lands would appear managed and developed. The sights, sounds, and changes in vegetation from associated road building and decommissioning and use would further decrease the natural integrity and sense of naturalness within harvest units and along roads. The sounds of road building machinery from active units would reduce a sense of naturalness and solitude during project operations but would not persist in the long-term. Impacts such as closed roads, skid trails, and tree stumps would be evident much longer.

In the long-term the project would result in the development of historic open conditions characterized by larger diameter trees, though more stumps would be present. Treatments would provide an overall mix of size classes of trees for visual as well as biological diversity (see Silviculture Report; Fire, Fuels, and Air Quality Report; and Visuals Report).

Opportunities for a feeling of solitude, the spirit of adventure and awareness, serenity, and self-reliance are limited by the size and shape of the polygon. Distance and topographic screening are also factors. The optimum shape and location to retain solitude and a sense of isolation from noise and sights of other humans and their activities would be at the center of a circle. Areas greater than or equal to 5,000 acres or about 8 square miles may have sufficient size to offer a sense of solitude yet this may vary by individual. Long narrow shapes provide less distance from noise at their midpoint. Nearby, non-conforming sights and sounds of project activities can be heard and often seen from within the polygons of other undeveloped areas because they are all less than 1 square mile in size and none is a perfect circle in shape. The existing condition of all remaining acres with evidence of past harvest and forest roads of land within and affected by the Camp Lick Project presents a landscape that has been managed and is generally developed in nature. Past management actions and current conditions within these areas reflect the multiple-use intent and decisions made in the Malheur Forest Plan, as amended, and reflect consistency with forest plan management area allocations.

Other undeveloped lands with no proposed activities would still be classified as other undeveloped lands and would retain their intrinsic social values as described in the affected environment. They would remain free of developments such as forest roads or timber harvest stumps. All acres of other undeveloped lands within the planning area would still not be considered an inventoried roadless areas or a designated wilderness area. These undeveloped lands would remain as small scattered areas detached from each other by terrain, roads, and harvest activities.

Cumulative Effects

Wilderness

Because there are no wilderness areas within or adjacent to the planning area, there would be no direct or indirect effects to wilderness characteristics from the project, and there would be no cumulative effects to wilderness under alternative 2.

Inventoried Roadless Areas

Because there are no inventoried roadless areas within or adjacent to the planning area, there would be no direct or indirect effects to roadless area characteristics from the project, and there would be no cumulative effects to inventoried roadless areas under alternative 2.

Other Undeveloped Lands

For other undeveloped lands in which project activities would occur when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, where project activities would occur, cumulative effects to soils; water quality; air quality; plant and animal communities; habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; recreation; noxious weeds; and cultural resources as disclosed in the Camp Lick FEA chapter 3 and specialist reports and are not reiterated here.

Under alternative 2 silvicultural treatments would increase the numbers of stumps and the open nature of the forest stand would likely be the most apparent visual change resulting from implementation. In the long-term (about 50+ years), alternative 2 would result in the development of historic open conditions characterized by larger diameter trees, though more stumps would be present than currently exist. Fuels treatments and future wildfires would cumulatively change the composition and structure of vegetation which could affect some forest visitor's sense of naturalness and remoteness. For a few years, burned areas would display a blackened color. Outside of the burned areas, the conditions described in the affected environment would remain unchanged except by natural processes and ongoing management activities such as grazing and hunting.

Apparent naturalness, solitude, and remoteness would be cumulatively impacted by grazing, dispersed camping, and motorized vehicle use on open system roads and trails under all action alternatives. Effects associated with recreational use, including non-native invasive plant spread, hunting, fishing, erosion, litter, and evidence of fire rings, are expected to remain cumulatively minor. Ongoing removal of hazard trees along forest roads and recreation trails changes the vegetation but does not change the overall sense of naturalness or sense of solitude along an existing developed transportation corridor. Overall, cumulative effects from these activities on apparent naturalness, solitude, and remoteness is very small (not measurable/indistinguishable) in proportion to the changes anticipated from the direct and indirect effects of the alternative disclosed above.

The reasonably foreseeable future activities authorized by the Aquatic Restoration Decision would be visually evident in the first year(s) following treatment; however, these would soon blend in with the landscape and contribute towards the improved function of the treated watersheds.

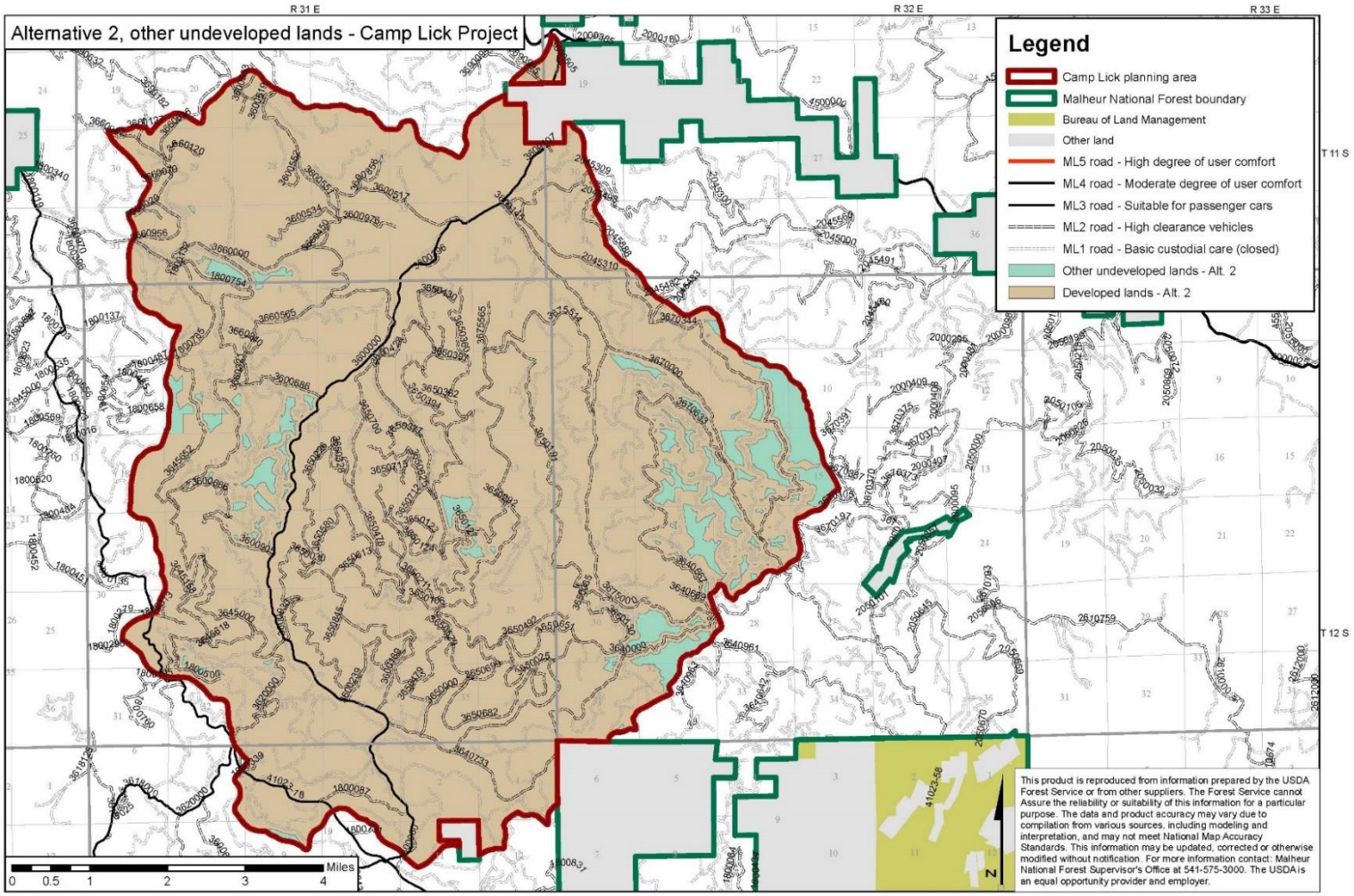

Figure 2. Alternative 2 other undeveloped lands in the planning area following silviculture treatments; riparian and upland watershed treatments; prescribed burning; and road activities.

Compliance with Forest Plan and Other Relevant Laws, Regulations, Policies and Plans

Environmental effects to resources in other undeveloped lands due to the implementation of proposed project activities would be consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and Forest Plan management area standards and guidelines (see the Camp Lick FEA chapter 3).

References

USDA Forest Service. 1990a. Malheur National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. USDA Forest Service, Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon. Available online at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/malheur/landmanagement/planning

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